PART ONE

EXCISE

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ACTION ARA-16
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 DCT-02 HA-06 TRSE-00 AID-07 SY-05
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 475
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS, PAN
DIA WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 22 JAN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SAN SALVADOR 6686
E.O. 12065: GDS 9/28/86 (GETTINGER, H. CARL) OR-P
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW
1. (U) SUMMARY: THE PAST WEEK HAS SEEN AN APPARENT UPSURGE IN VIOLENCEPERPETRATED BY BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT, AND AS REFLECTED IN THE NUMBER OFVIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS INVOLVING THE MILITARY. END SUMMARY.
2. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS THE FIRST OF THIS EMBASSY'S PROPOSED WEEKLY REPORTS ON POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR, COVERING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 20-26. INFORMATION WILL USUALLY BE ON A SATURDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BASIS, WITH LATE BREAKING INCIDENTS THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION BEFORE WE SEND THIS CABLE ON SUNDAY PREVIEWED IN A SPECIAL SECTION.
3. (U) DEATHS: POLITICALVIOLENCE TOOK THE LIVES OF AT LEAST
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220 PEOPLE IN EL SALVADOR DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 26. OF THESE, THIRTY EIGHT VICTIMS COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING BEEN KILLED BY THE MILITARY IN ONE KIND OF CONFRONTATION OR ANOTHER, TWENTY KILLINGS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO LEFTISTVIOLENCE, THIRTEEN TO THE EXTREME RIGHT AND 149 TO UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS.
4.(U)VIOLENT INCIDENTS:
--ON 9/20 EXTREMISTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE TOWN OF JUTIAPA (CABANAS) LEAVING TWELVE OF THE INVADERS AND THREE TOWNSPEOPLE DEAD;
--ON 9/20 THREE GUERILLAS WERE KILLED IN CANTON SANTA ROSA SESORI (SAN MIGUEL) BY A FARMER WHOSE PROPERTY THE GUERILLAS HAD REPORTEDLY INVADED;
--ON OR ABOUT 9/20 FIVE TORTURED BODIES WERE FOUND NEAR EL TRIUNFO (USULUTAN); THE KILLINGS WERE APPARENTLY THE WORK OF

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A LITTLE KNOWN RIGHTIST TERRORIST GROUP CALLED THE EASTERN ANTI-GUERILLA BLOC (BAGO);
--ON 9/20 TWO BANKS IN SAN SALVADOR, BANCO CAPITALIZADOR AND BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, WERE BOMBED;
-- ON 9/20 IN SANTA ANA FIREBOMS DESTROYED A WAREHOSE BELONGING TO BUSINESSMAN TOMAS MCENTEE;
--ON 9/21 TROOPS ENTERED A HOUSE IN SANTA ANA WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE A TERRORIST BOMB-MAKING CELL; EIGHT OCCUPANTS OF THE HOUSE AND ONE SOLDIER WERE KILLED;
--ON 9/21 THE NATIONAL GUARD POST IN ARCATAO (CHALANTENANGO) WAS ATTACKED; REPORTS INDICATED THAT SEVERAL OF THE ATTACKING GUERILLAS WERE KILLED BUT THAT THE GUARDSMEN SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES;
--ON 9/21 GOVERNMENT TROOPS CONDUCTED A SURPRISE ATTACK AGAINST GUERILLAS OPERATING NEAR LOS FILOS (CHALANTENANGO); AN ARMY SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT OVER ONE HUNDRED GUERILLAS WERE KILLED WITHOUT THE ARMY SUSTAINING A LOSS;
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--ON 9/21 THE TOWN OF GUADALUPE (SAN VICENTE) WAS ENTERED BY A GROUP OF GUERILLAS WHO KILLED FIVE LOCAL POLICE AND ATTACKED THE HOUSE OF THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, THE NATIONAL GUARD POST AND THE ANTEL (STATE TELEPHONE) BUILDING;
--ON OR ABOUT 9/21 A GROUP OF POLICE EN ROUTE TO SAN FRANCISCO MORAZAN (CHALANTENANGO) WAS ATTACKED AND TWO OF THE GROUP KILLED;
--ON OR ABOUT 9/21 TWO TREASURY POLICE (PH) AND ONE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD WERE INJURED AFTER BEING AMBUSHED NEAR TOROLA (MORAZAN);
--ON 9/21 A BOMB EXPLODED IN A SANTA ANA SHOPPING CENTER WHICH DAMAGED SEVERAL BUSINESSES BUT CAUSED NO INJURIES;
--ON 9/22 NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS FIRED AT THE FDR-OCCUPIED CATHEDRAL IN SAN SALVADOR AFTER REPORTEDLY HAVING BEEN FIRED AT FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING; (AN EMBASSY CONTACT INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TROOPS FIRED WITHOUT PROVOCATION);
--ON 9/22 A BOMB EXPLODED IN A CEL (THE STATE ELECTRIC COMPANY) SU-STATION NEAR SAN SALVADOR AND ANOTHER IN THE NATIONAL GYM-NASIUM; NEWS STORIES INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH BOMBINGS;
--ON 9/23 GUERILLAS ENTERED THE TOWN OF GUAZAPA AND ATTACKED THE TREASURY POLICE POST, THE NUMICIPAL BUILDING, ANTEL, AND A RESTAURANT WHERE THEY KILLED THE OWNER AND STOLE 4,000 COLONES; FOUR GUERILLAS, ONE POLICEMAN, ONE WATCHMAN, ONE TREASURY POLICE INSPECTOR, AND ONE RESTAURANT OWNER WERE RE-PORTED KILLED;
--ON 9/23 ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF SAN SEBASTIAN (SAN VICENTE) HAVE SAID THAT THE HILLS AROUND THE TOWN SERVE AS REFUGES AND STAGING AREAS FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED GUERILLAS;
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--ON 9/23 NEWS REPORTS INDICATED THAT WORKERS ON COFFEE FARMS NEAR SANTIAGO DE MARIA (USULUTAN) HAVE BEEN INTIMIDATED BY MEMBERS OF GUERILLA GROUPS WHO HAVE THREATENED THE WORKERS WITH DEATH IF THEY CONTINUE WORKING;
--ON 9/23 RODOLFO VIERA, HEAD OF ISTA, AND A COMPANION, FRANCISCO MENJIVAR, WERE SHOT BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAN SALVADOR;
--ON 9/23 A POWERFUL BOMB DESTROYED PART OF A MERCEDES BENZ CAR DEALERSHIP IN A SUBURBAN AREA OF SAN SALVADOR;
--ON 9/24 A BOMB DESTROYED THE ANTEL BUILDING IN COATEPEQUE (SANTA ANA);
--ON 9/24 THE CEL (THE ELECTRIC COMPANY) OFFICES IN SAN MIGUEL. WERE BOMBED AND BADLY DAMAGED;
--ON 9/24 A FIRE, WHICH CHURCH OFFICIALS HAVE SAID WAS DELIBERATELY SET, DESTROYED A LARGE PART OF A CONVENT IN GUAZAPA (SAN SALVADOR);
--ON 9/25 A GUERILLA GROUP ENTERED THE TOWN OF SAN MARCOS (SAN
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SALVADOR) AND DYNAMITED THE ANTEL BUILDING;
--ON 9/26 TEN YOUTH REPORTEDLY BELONGING TO THE SALVADORAN REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT MOVEMENT (MERS) WERE EVICTED BY TROOPS FROM A SCHOOL FOR GIRLS WHICH THEY HAD TAKEN OVER.
5. SPECIAL WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT: ONLY ONE VIOLENT WEEKEND EVENT HAS BECOME KNOWN AT THE TIME THIS REPORT IS SENT. AN OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD INFORMS US THAT A MACHINE GUN ATTACK TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, AGAINST COL. GABRIEL CONTRERAS. CONTRERAS APPARENTLY SURVIVED THE ATTACK BUT AN ACCOMPANYING SERGEANT DID NOT. THE COLONEL IS THE COMMANDER OF THE GARRISON IN SESUNTEPEQUE BUT WAS SHOT IN SAN SALVADOR.
6. RE-CAPS: WE HAVE NO FURTHER DATA ON THESE INCIDENTS. IN

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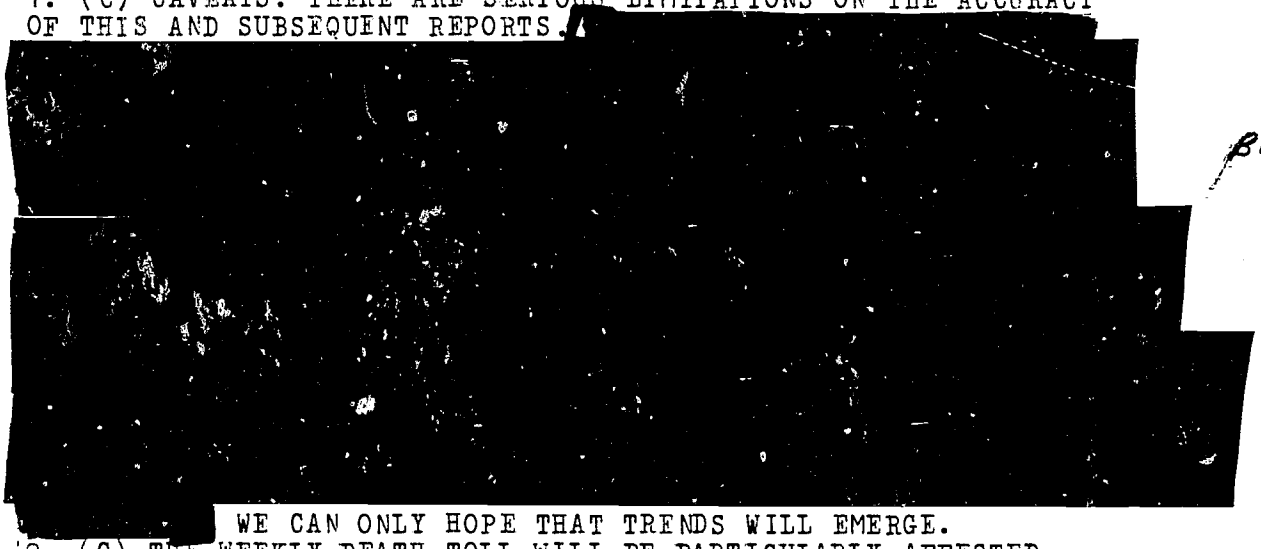
FUTURE THIS SECTION WILL PRESENT ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WE HAVE DEVELOPED ON EVENTS ALREADY REPORTED AND PRESENT NEWLY REPORTED SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS OUTSIDE THE TIME SPAN OF OUR WEEKLY CABLE.

7. (C) CAVEATS: THERE ARE SERIOUS LIMITATIONS ON THE ACCURACY OF THIS AND SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.



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WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT TRENDS WILL EMERGE.

8. (C) THE WEEKLY DEATH TOLL WILL BE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE POOR QUALITY OF THE AVAILABLE DATA. THE EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS AN ACCURATE FIGURE FOR THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS OCCURING WEEKLY. IT CAN BE USED AS A MINIMUM ESTIMATE. AT THE RISK OF DISTORTING AND ARBITRARILY LOWERING THESE MINIMUM ESTIMATES WE HAVE CHOSEN TO IGNORE THE MORE EXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT REGARDING LARGE NUMBERS OF CASUALTIES. WHITE

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